



OCTOBER 2026

**Forest Oaks Lutheran
Church**

**8555 Forest Oaks
Blvd.**

Spring Hill, FL 34606

352-683-9731

**Pastor Glenn E.
Fischer**

**Secretary: Lyla Mock
Services**

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM

Sunday School

10:45 AM

Confirmation Class

**Pastor's Bible Class,
11 AM**

**Fellowship hour after
morning worship**

Thursday Bible Study

9 AM in the

Conference Room

Food Ministry

**Tuesdays from
9AM- NOON**

forestoakslutheran.com

Jesus always had a story

"God has written the greatest story of our lives; the story of redemption" Max Lucado

In Ephesians 1:7 "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the richness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace" Thanks be to God!

Colossians 1:14 "In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Jesus often taught using short memorable stories that the people would understand from their daily lives in-order to illustrate spiritual truths about the Kingdom of God, human responsibility, God's character and His judgement.

Matthew 13: 13 -14 "This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: " ' You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving."

All the stories or parables of Jesus are central to Christian teaching because they make abstract truths concrete and invite us to examine our own response to God. Our own Pastor Fischer, not comparing him to Jesus, teaches us with stories about his own life and experiences. Some we can relate to and others help us to understand the message he is providing for our growth and hearing the Word of God. Let us all accept the lessons that we receive, ponder them and put them to our own understanding.

Who else loves stories but children? FOLC is now not just a church for the seniors in and around Spring Hill, but we have a group of young people and juveniles under the age of 14. They are coming to church usually without parental supervision and are looking for instructions on life; how to behave in polite society; some actual food; and Bible lessons. Thankfully, Caryl Kellerman takes them under her very capable wing to train and teach. I have witnessed other members do the same. I have learned my own lesson of tolerance and opening of my own eyes to not becoming a complaining curmudgeon.

Thank you, church- we may have a new calling from God.

God Bless you all, Jackie Bearden

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RIGHT AFTER SERVICE ON OCT 4TH. This meeting is being called to discuss our fire alarm system replacement/upgrade. Being a commercial building, the fire alarm system is something that we are mandated by law to have, in working order, and be monitored by an approved company. Both of the companies we are getting estimates from are approved companies. Because the fire alarm system is completely down right now, we are mandated by law to be on fire watch. **Registered Members of Forest Oaks Lutheran Church 18 and over are eligible to vote at this meeting.**



This month we meet for lunch on October 21 at Silverthorn in Spring Hill. We meet at 12 Noon in the clubhouse. Please sign up at the members center.

BIG THANKS TO THE MEN'S CLUB: The September Ladies Guild meeting was well attended and the Men's Club served up a great Breakfast. The ladies Guild meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Thanks to all who gave to "A New Generation" We raised \$1,026.22 in our baby bottle campaign. Thanks to all who donated.

All lady members of FOLC are automatically Ladies Guild members so join us for our meetings! The Men's Club is also open to any men who want to join in. Come to the meeting and see what we do. The Men's Club also meets at the same time as the ladies. Next meeting for both Ladies Guild and Men's club is October 14.

THE WOMEN'S QUILTING GROUP We meet every Monday afternoon from 1-4. Veronica recently finished her first quilt in her favorite color. It came out beautiful. We are so proud of her.



A thank-you to Betty

Marshall for making her a lovely quilt label. We are working very hard to complete some items for our quilt sale at Heritage Pines on October 25th from 10:00-3:00.





LWML Sunday is on October 11th. Wear purple in honor of Ladies Guild

This year's theme continues a four-year cycle focusing on the LWML Mission Statement — *As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.* For Lutheran Women in

Mission Sunday 2026, we focus on **Supporting Missions**. This theme is based on the texts: Ecclesiastes 3:9–15, Galatians 2:1–10, and Mark 10:35–45.

Christ Jesus our Lord asks us to be wise stewards of His good gifts. St. Paul, while proclaiming the Gospel, was also concerned for those who suffered. There were so many mission efforts taking place. As believers today, we also are eager to follow the example of Christ and aid those in need. The Spirit of God places that eagerness to serve upon our hearts. We can't be everywhere to aid the missions, firsthand, that are set before us. The Lord does allow us to support those efforts that go forth in His name. May the Lord grant to us supportive hearts.



About the Author

Rev. Mark Maas, LWML Senior Pastoral Counselor, serves King of Glory Lutheran Church in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he lives with his wife Cheri. An LCMS pastor for almost 40 years, he's held multiple roles in LWML and the Wyoming District, including 1st Vice President. He directs "Project: Pastoral Education West Africa" and enjoys Wyoming's outdoors for hunting, hiking, and fishing.

2025-2027 MISSION GRANT NO. 15

ARCH BOOKS FOR IMMIGRANT CHILDREN IN THE USA CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE — CONCORDIA GOSPEL OUTREACH, U.S. | \$125,000



Reaching Immigrant Children Using Arch Books in their Native Language

In 1869, Concordia Publishing House (CPH) was founded as a small St. Louis printer with the mission of providing doctrinally sound materials for churches and individuals. Today, they offer more than 10,000 products and services that are faithful to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

CPH publishes Arch Books which have been used for generations by families, educators, and pastors to teach important truths of the Bible. Each book takes a portion of Scripture and sets its story in rhyme, capturing the imagination of children and bringing the stories of God's Word to life.

If you remember the first time you learned about the story of creation, it was likely at Sunday school or reading a book at home in your parents' laps. For many immigrant and refugee children in the United States, access to books in their native language, especially books that share the love of Christ, is not guaranteed.

The United States is home to nearly one-fifth of the world's international immigrants, many of whom face challenges in accessing materials in their native languages. Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, congregations, and other ministry programs across the United States that routinely care for these populations also struggle to find Bible-based materials in the languages of those they serve. This grant will provide funding for the Arch Books to be created and made available in Spanish, Chinese, Telugu, Arabic, and Farsi. The five books will include *The Story of Creation*, *Noah's 2-by-2 Adventure*, *Baby Jesus is Born*, *The Week that Led to Easter*, and *Jesus Blesses the Children*.

This mission grant aims to equip LCMS entities serving immigrant and refugee populations with Arch Books, free of charge, in the heart language of children and families they serve.

And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:15).

FOREST OAKS BODY AND SOUL FOOD PANTRY

I would like to thank the parishioners for their outstanding donation of Christmas presents over the last decade. Due to the lack of interest on our clients, we will not be collecting this year. We are aware of the many organizations that furnish gifts to the public. I would hope if you are interested you can donate to the different charities that are still available. We will review the policy after this year to determine if there is a need and interest in our gift policy. Again, I thank all who have supported us in the past.

Lonnie Benmore





PROPERTIES MANAGER REPORT

Here is our annual properties report for the last year. One of the bigger things we got accomplished this year was the seal coating of the parking lot. We were able to do a few little repairs to the parking lot along with pressure washing all of the curbing just before the lot got sealed. And afterwards we added a few more handicap parking spaces.

The bulk of the year has been just all the regular maintenance, upkeep, and repairs. There are always little issues popping up which is normal for an aging building. Water leak here, carpet stain there, burned out bulb's, etc. And regular maintenance like mowing, trimming trees and hedges, AC units, etc.

We are also still in the process of getting new chairs for the conference room, Sunday School room, and the choir loft (which I did not take into account when I brought up the unsafe chair situation to Council). We did get the fellowship hall chairs replaced already but not these other areas of the Church. All of these chairs are old and we have had at least a handful of instances where the chairs have collapsed when someone has sat down in them.

We have also been looking into an automated computer organ system with the retirement of our longtime and great organist Ron Dykes. And I would like Council to also look into a speech to text program for our TV screens to help the hearing impaired. Our sound system is in good working order and there is not much we can do with that to help out those with hearing problems. The Church has tried special Bluetooth

headphones before which apparently did not take well. Cindy Braun has been great with typing everything Pastor Fischer says onto the screens for us. But Cindy is now semi-retired also and so can't be here every week to do this. Talking with some of our hearing-impaired members, seeing the words on the screens does help them a lot in following along. So maybe as with the organ, we could also find a speech to text program to help out our hearing-impaired members to follow along and enjoy the sermons also.

We do have a new project in the works for our memorial garden. This project has been generously funded by a pair of our congregation members. Details are still being worked out with this project, so more to come later on this.

We do have one major problem needing attention here. One of our big sanctuary AC units is shot. I handle all the AC maintenance and repairs on the electrical and mechanical side of things but not the gasses. Since taking over the AC maintenance, I felt 2 of the units were low on gas. This year I called in Comfort Control Specialist to go ahead and test out all the systems. The tech found all was good except for the 2 systems I questioned. The one unit was only slightly low on gas which he said was still at a good level with nothing needing done to it. The second unit however was completely shot

With a little research by the AC tech, it appears the bad AC was the only one not replaced in 2005 when they were all supposed to be replaced. This unit was setup as the other 6 that got replaced with the old gas. Due to the costs to try to get this unit repaired along with it's age, we are better off replacing it with a brand new unit.

This problem was discovered after we already had the parking lot resealing job started. We did/do not have the funds to do both at the same time, so we had to push off replacing the AC unit until we can build up the Major Repair Fund account a bit more.

Before I could finish this article about the AC issue, we now have another costly issue. A lightning strike has burned out a lot of the telephone and Internet equipment. Which at this time we have phone service again but we are still dealing with some of the Internet/Wi-Fi equipment.

The costly issue is our fire security system. This was already an older system that they had a hard time tracking down a part for a couple years ago. This time though it was not just a part, the lightning basically burned

out the whole system beyond repair. We are currently in the process of getting the estimate for a new replacement.

Unlike the AC unit which we have been able to get away with not using till we raise enough funds, the security system is a item we cannot go without. So, by the time you read this article we should already have a new fire security system up and running. And until we do, the Hernando County fire department and the fire inspector have the church on fire watch.

I mention this because the fire security system will probably come out of the Major Repair Fund account which will set us back further with funds to replace the AC unit. Although not a priority, it is important to have this AC unit replaced. It has probably been bad for a long time maybe as far back as 2005. This unit is combined with 2 of the other units with all three connected kind of as 1 big unit. So, this has been putting extra strain on the other 2 working units.

This sums up the current situations dealing with the church properties. Peace and Blessings to all!

Forest Oaks Lutheran Church Properties
Keith Higgins

MAJOR REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT FUND

Perhaps you are wondering why among our offering envelopes is one each month labeled "Designated Offering for Major Repair Fund," why it's important, and how your contribution to that fund is used.

The Major Repair and Replacement Fund was originally created with approval by the Voters Assembly in 2015 as part of the 2016 church budget. It has also been known as the 7-year plan and the Future Maintenance Fund. The fund was established to focus on keeping the church in the condition to which we all would be proud to bring friends and family and fulfill our mission of "Drawing People to Christ."

It was hoped that by establishing the fund and maintaining a list of upcoming major repairs and system replacements, we would limit having emergencies and also not have to try to quickly raise funds whenever emergencies occur. The money in the fund is carried over from year

to year but can only be spent for the repair/replacement items listed in the plan or any emergency that might arise. As the Finance and Property Committees review the anticipated maintenance and repair areas each year, the plan is revised and presented for approval. Our annual goal for the Fund is \$10,000, but that goal has not been met for the past several years.

Through the Fund, as approved by the voters, our congregation has replaced the roof, painted the exterior and interior of the church, upgraded our lightning rod system and gutters, replaced our carpeting, resurfaced the parking lot twice, and purchased audio/visual equipment. In addition, consideration has been given to the possible need to purchase air conditioning units or even a new organ. We must also remember that some of the things already done years ago, may once again need to be taken care of to keep our church in good working order. Most recently, lightning took out several of our electrical systems, including internet, phone lines, and alarm system. So, this is one of those emergencies for which the Fund can be used. Your "Designated Offering for Major Repair" will help us to replenish the Fund as we look to our future needs.



Annual Rummage Sale is November 13 and 14th you can bring in your donations now, to the fellowship hall. **We cannot take large furniture or appliances.**

MEMORIALS

<u>Given by</u>	<u>Memory or in honor of</u>	<u>Fund</u>
Margot Hoyt	Memory of Loved ones	Unspecified
Jackie Bearden	Memory of Don Bearden's 10 th year in Heaven	Future Maintenance

BIRTHDAYS

10/01 Cindy Pederson
 10/04 Nathaniel (Nate) Welch
 10/06 Lawrence Stech
 10/16 Mike Philpott
 10/16 Herb Schwantes
 10/17 Cathy Walter
 10/18 Diane Shay
 10/19 Elaine Maywalt
 10/20 Thelda Parks
 10/21 Laura Plona
 10/23 Joan Rullman
 10/25 Cindy Braun



ANNIVERSARIES

10/06 Gerry & Audrey Stead
 10/17 Geoff & Amy Blackburn
 10/29 Stan & Lonnie Benmore



WILD WEST MYSTERY DINNER

A Fund Raiser for the Vittles (Food) Pantry For \$10 a head ('cept kiddos 12 and under are free) sign up to wrangle yourself some grub and solve the mystery! We'll be a gatherin' up on **Oct. 17th at 3:00pm** at the General Store for a bitty bite. Then head over to the chuck wagon for a hardy supper. The kiddy bar will have the weak drinks, or iffin' you have \$2 bucks cash, you can belly up at the bar where you can purchase a LITTLE beer or wine. Then, iffin' you have any room left, head on back to the General Store there for some sweet eats. All the while you'll be a listenin' and a watchin' for clues to solve the mystery. Solve the mystery and you'll be a headin' home before sundown and lookin' forward to next year's round up. Tickets are very limited so check the Welcome Center for the sign-up sheet.



OCTOBER 31 TRUNK OR TREAT

Join us for Trunk or Treat this year Saturday October 31st from 5:30 to 7:30pm. We have a designated area of

the parking lot blocked off with members of the congregation parked inside with their trunks open and decorated to pass out candy to trick or treaters.

Everyone has a lot of fun with this event, the kids, parents, members of the church who dress up themselves with all kinds of different costumes. It's a good event for the church and the community.

We would love to have you sign up to bring your car to decorate. We ask for everyone to be here with their cars by 5:00pm. That way you have time to decorate, and we can finish blocking off the area before the early trick or treaters start showing up and starting a line. We also ask for you to bring candy with you to pass out. The average amount of kids the last

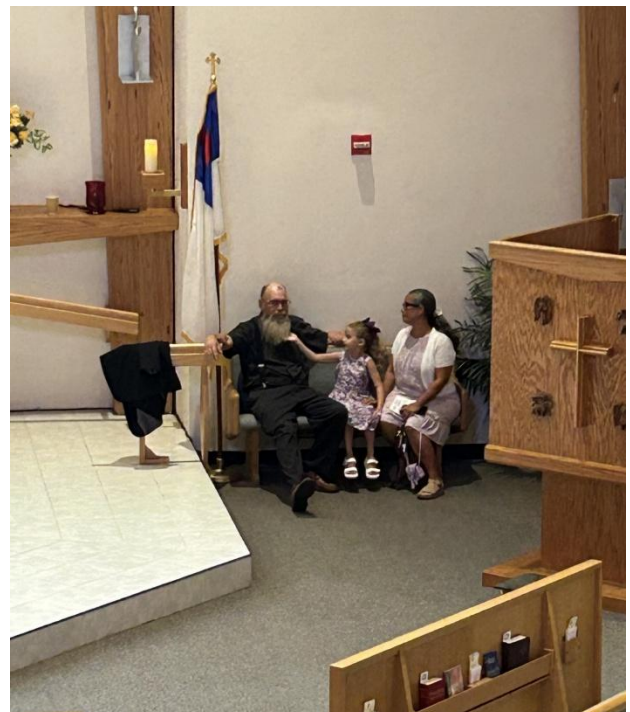
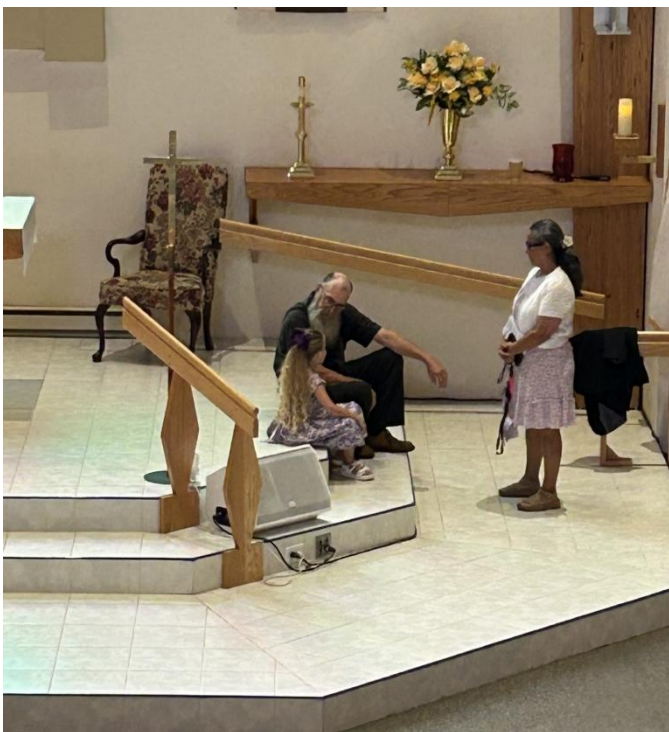
couple years have been around 300. Sign-up sheet is at the welcome center.

Those who can't show can help by donating candy. There is a table set up next to the food pantry collection table in the narthex. The bulk of this candy is divided into about 350 trick or treat bags along with a little devotional book which this year is The Amazing Life of Jesus. These bags are given out by the food pantry group along with a juice box, bag of chips, and a trinket.

While the bulk of the candy goes that way, we do also hold back a good portion. That is back up for our members there passing out candy and run out. There are many different reasons and they are all understandable. And nobody would want to sit there with time still left and nothing to pass out. We hope you can make it but we have some on standby.

Also, this year, the Men's Group will cook and pass out hotdogs. We had a nice group presence last year. I again ask any of the Men's Group to, if anything be a good presence again this year. Plus, we'll have the hotdogs to hand out this year.

Pastor taking time for the children!!



The Apostle Paul says: *“Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Master irreverently is like part of the crowd that jeered and spit on Him at His death. Is that the kind of ‘remembrance’ you want to be part of? Examine your motives, test your heart, come to this meal in holy awe”* (1 Corinthians 11:27-28 “The Message.”). It is therefore right and fitting that before we come forward to receive the body and blood of Jesus, we hold the mirror of God’s word to our heart and soul and examine ourselves as Saint Paul instructs us to do. The key questions we must ask are:

- Answering “yes,” to all of these questions, come forward boldly at the invitation of Jesus and receive this meal in “holy awe.”**

The office is trying very hard to update our information database. If you have a change in address or phone number or email address, can you please call the office and give us this information or email the information to. forestoakslutheran@outlook.com. You can also just fill out an information update form.

Information in this newsletter is provided by the various groups and committees. If you don't see your event, it is because you did not send an article. The deadline is always announced on the slides and in the weekly bulletin. An email is sent to all the committees as a reminder.

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Service 9:30 AM SPECIAL VOTERS MTG. Sunday School & Confirmation class 10:45 AM Fellowship Time Youth Group 11:15 AM Pastors Bible class	5 Office Closed on Mondays Quilters 1 PM	6 Office open 9 AM-1 PM TOPS 9 AM Food Pantry 9 AM	7 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Game day 1 PM	1 Bible Study 9 AM	2 Office open 9 AM-1 PM	3 Office closed
11 LWML Sunday Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Confirmation class 10:45 AM Fellowship Time Youth Group 11:15 AM Pastors Bible class Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM *Communion	12 Office Closed on Mondays Quilters 1 PM	13 Office open 9 AM-1 PM TOPS 9 AM Food Pantry 9 AM	14 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Ladies Guild Mtg & Men's club 9 AM Game day 1 PM	15 Bible Study 9 AM Produce Drop 9 AM	16 Office open 9 AM-1 PM	17 Office closed Wild West Mystery Dinner 3 PM (tickets)
18 Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Confirmation class 10:45 AM Fellowship Time Youth Group 11:15 AM Pastors Bible class Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM	19 Office Closed on Mondays Quilters 1 PM	20 Office open 9 AM-1 PM TOPS 9 AM Food Pantry 9 AM	21 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Game day 1 PM Produce Drop 9 AM	22 Bible Study 9 AM	23 Office open 9 AM-1 PM	24 Office closed Women's Bible Study 10 AM
25 Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Confirmation class 10:45 AM Fellowship Time Youth Group 11:15 AM Pastors Bible class Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM *Communion	26 Office Closed on Mondays Quilters 1 PM	27 Office open 9 AM-1 PM TOPS 9 AM Food Pantry 9 AM	28 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Game day 1 PM	29 Bible Study 9 AM	30 Office open 9 AM-1 PM	31 Office closed TRUNK OR TREAT 5:30